

## *Press Release*

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### *Office of Mayor Chuck Reed*

**For Immediate Release:**

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### **Rise in Graffiti Mobilizes a Community to Take Action** *Mayor Reed, Elected Officials, and Volunteers to Clean Up Neighborhoods*

*SAN JOSE* – Mayor Chuck Reed, District Attorney Dolores Carr, Chief Probation Officer Sheila Mitchell, and members of the San José City Council kicked off the Anti-Graffiti Program's Community Volunteer Week. Joined by community volunteers, the event featured demonstrations using the City's Anti-Graffiti Toolkit, showing residents how easy it is to lend a helping hand.

The Anti-Graffiti Program's Community Volunteer Week encourages residents to combat the recent rise in graffiti by taking an active role in cleaning up their neighborhoods. The program supplies a kit to interested residents that includes: safety glasses, a mask, gloves, rags, sponges, and a graffiti removing solvent. There are currently over 3,000 registered volunteers who have been trained in graffiti removal by the City.

The Department of Parks, Recreation, and Neighborhood Services has routinely conducted graffiti surveys since 1999. Over the years, surveys have shown steady declines in the number of occurrences of graffiti in the community. However, survey results from the third week in January 2008 show a recent increase in graffiti activity. A full report of results will be discussed by the Neighborhood Services & Education Committee on March 10, 2008.

"San José has done a remarkable job reducing the amount of graffiti in our neighborhoods over the past ten years but the recent increase is a reminder that we need to stay focused," said Mayor Chuck Reed. "We are proud of the progress our hundreds of volunteers have made in helping clean up San José."

In addition to community volunteers, the City's Anti-Graffiti Program has a fulltime staff equipped with graffiti trucks to clean large areas. The program also collaborates with the Santa Clara Valley Water District to address graffiti along the water shed areas, Cal-Trans for highways and freeways, Santa Clara County for expressways, and the Valley Transportation Authority for bus and light rail areas.

For more information on participating in the Anti-Graffiti Community Volunteer Day and to receive a free Anti-Graffiti kit, please contact the Anti-Graffiti Program Office at 408-277-3208 or stop by the main office located at 501 Vine Street.

Residents should call the Anti Graffiti Hotline at 408-277-2758 to report graffiti in the community.

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